GLASTONBURY TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, AUGUST 4, 2015

The Glastonbury Town Council with Town Manager, Richard J. Johnson, in attendance, held a Regular Meeting at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers of the Town Hall located at 2155 Main Street, Glastonbury, Connecticut.

1. Roll Call

Council Members

Dr. Stewart Beckett III, Chairman Mr. Whit C. Osgood, Vice Chairman

Mrs. Jill Barry

Ms. Karen Boisvert

Mr. Lawrence J. Byar

Mr. Kurt P. Cavanaugh

Mr. William T. Finn

Mr. Thomas P. Gullotta

Mrs. Cara (Tonucci) Keefe {excused}

a) Pledge of Allegiance

Led by Chairman Beckett

2. Public Comment.

None

3. Special Reports.

None

4. Old Business.

None

- 5. New Business.
- (a) Discussion concerning Hebron Avenue corridor utility poles.

Chairman Beckett noted the report provided by the Town Manager that detailed all the projects done in the town center. Mr. Johnson added that the grants can be confusing and he thought the list would help. He continued saying that the question was raised about below grade utilities and there are several angles they could look at from a full scale project, to removing overhead wires from intersections, to burying wires that are crossing streets to burying the utilities when other projects are being done. Chairman Beckett asked about who would undertake the project. Mr.

Johnson said that the majority would be handled by private contractors with milestones requiring utility workers to handle their portions.

Chairman Beckett said that a resident had raised a concern about sight lines on Hebron Avenue and looking at the video that was provided, he was shocked how much the poles obstruct vision. Mr. Gullotta said he was not particularly excited about spending money but if the poles were trees, they would have been removed as dangerous but because they are utilities, they seem to have the right, they are viewed differently. He emphasized that the poles along the roadway are an accident waiting to happen and they should consider the project. He favored learning about the project costs primarily for safety. Mr. Byar said he didn't disagree about the safety and the sight lines and it would look a lot better. He continued saying that it would unfortunately be a very large price tag unlike a tree that they just cut down and kill the roots. He questioned if they had ballpark numbers. Mr. Johnson said there used to be a rule of thumb but he would need to get updated information. He emphasized that they could do it in pieces, it would look great but he expected it would be pricey.

Mr. Cavanaugh asked how service to businesses would be handled if the town chose to bury their utilities. Mr. Johnson said it may be difficult for the business owners to see the value of the project or to undertake the cost. Mr. Cavanaugh said he would love to see it but felt it would be cost prohibitive. He questioned if they could make the telephone poles more attractive. Mr. Johnson said that years ago, there were options to try and make a pole more attractive and he would look into it again. Mr. Finn concurred saying the scope of the project is likely cost prohibitive and given all they have going on, he wouldn't want to see staff make this a priority. He continued saying that he wouldn't want staff to spend a lot of time but as time was available, it would be helpful, particularly for future councils, to get general scope numbers.

Chairman Beckett asked how they would get order of magnitude numbers emphasizing that they should consider doing the project in chunks when they have the road ripped up for another project. Mr. Johnson said that they will revisit the costs with their contacts that may have been aware of similar projects recently to get a broad overview. Vice Chairman Osgood said that they wouldn't be able to add anything more on their CIP with two rotaries and the walkway from Western Boulevard. He continued saying that it was a great concept and they could get a better handle on the costs but it shouldn't be a priority. Chairman Beckett agreed reiterating that while they have the road dug up, they should consider it because laying conduit in an open hole is not expensive, digging the hole and restoring the property is what carries most of the cost.

Ms. Boisvert said she agreed with Vice Chairman Osgood. Mrs. Barry asked if there were any benefits to the power company which might provide some kind of incentive. Mr. Johnson said that while the project would harden the utilities against weather events, all the towns would clamor for buried utilities if there were any kind of incentive. Mr. Gullotta said that they should collect the information and reiterated that they should consider burying utilities if the road is ripped up anyway. Mr. Cavanaugh agreed with Mr. Gullotta in that they could create a master plan and peck away at it as projects occur. Chairman Beckett said that it would be a lower priority but hopefully they could get the information before they review the CIP. Mr. Byar

suggested that Mr. Johnson put together different alternatives with ballpark costs. Mr. Johnson said that they could consider incorporating it when they design the roundabouts and do the project for the granite curbs. Vice Chairman Osgood asked about timing. Mr. Johnson said that it depends when grants are available and emphasized that they could include streetscape in with the project. He thought it would be more like 2017.

(b) Discussion concerning Shenipsit Trail.

Vice Chairman Osgood said that he is a member of the Great Meadows Conservation Trust which is asking the Council to support the relocation of the Shenipsit trail. He said that currently, the trail goes down roads a couple miles and then back to the trail and people are tempted to run across Route 2 and this proposal is for a safe crossing.

Motion By: Vice Chairman Osgood *Seconded By:* Mr. Gullotta BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby authorizes the town manager to write a letter in support of the relocation of the Shenipsit Trail. *Result:* Motion passes unanimously {8-0-0}.

6. Consent Calendar.

None

7. Town Manager's Report.

Mr. Johnson informed the Council that the Siting Council has a meeting on Thursday where they will consider and take action on the town requests for the Hebron Avenue facility but the public won't be heard. He also said that the contractors working on securing the slope determined that there are two three-hour time slots when the tide helps offset the current to minimize the struggle with the geotechnical fabric so they are adjusting their hours to facilitate that project. Vice Chairman Osgood asked about the letters mailed for the signs. Mr. Johnson said that the letters went out to properties in the town center, South Glastonbury Village, Buck's Corners and Buckingham and they will begin picking them up in the following week. Chairman Beckett noted that he had a conflict for the next meeting in September and had heard from other Members that preferred the move of the meeting from September 8 to September 1.

Motion By: Mr. Byar *Seconded By:* Mr. Gullotta BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby cancels their regular meeting of September 8, 2015, and reschedules it for Tuesday, September 1, 2015. *Result:* Motion passes unanimously {8-0-0}.

8. Committee Reports.

None

(a) Chairman's Report.

9. Communications.

(a) Letter from CT Siting Council regarding proposed modification to Hopewell Substation at 1007 Chestnut Hill Road.

10. Minutes

(a) Minutes of July 28, 2015 Council Meeting.

Motion By: Mr. Cavanaugh *Seconded By:* Mr. Gullotta BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby approves the minutes as submitted for the regular meeting held July 28, 2015.

Result: Motion carries by the following vote {7-0-1}.

For: Chairman Beckett, Vice Chairman Osgood, Ms. Boisvert, Mr. Byar, Mr. Cavanaugh,

Mr. Gullotta and Mr. Finn

Against: None

Abstain: Mrs. Barry {excused}

11. Appointments and Resignations.

None

12. Executive Session.

- (a) Potential property acquisition.
- (b) Draft terms and conditions for sale of town-owned land off Western Boulevard.
- (c) Personnel matter.

Motion By: Mr. Cavanaugh *Seconded By:* Mr. Gullotta BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby enters executive session at 7:28 pm for the purposes of discussing a potential property acquisition, draft terms and conditions for land off Western Boulevard and a Personnel Matter.

Result: Motion passes unanimously {8-0-0}.

Present for the executive session were Town Council Members: Dr. Stewart Beckett, III, Chairman, Mr. Whit C. Osgood, Vice Chairman, Mrs. Jill Barry, Ms. Karen Boisvert, Mr. Lawrence J. Byar, Mr. Kurt Cavanaugh, Mr. William Finn and Mr. Thomas P. Gullotta with Town Manager, Richard J. Johnson.

Motion By: Mr. Cavanaugh *Seconded By:* Mr. Gullotta BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby exits executive session at 8:45 pm.

Result: Motion passes unanimously {8-0-0}.

13. Adjournment

Motion By: Mr. Cavanaugh Seconded By: Mr. Gullotta

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby adjourns their regular meeting of

August 4, 2015, at 8:46 pm.

Result: Motion passes unanimously {8-0-0}.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Meanix Miller

Kimberly Meanix Miller Recording Clerk Stewart Beckett, III Chairman